GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6210
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002
EXPLORATION OF NEW MARKETS FOR NON TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS BY TRIFED
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRIFED has been exploring the possibilities for getting new markets at the National as well as International level for Non-Timber Forest Products procured by it;

(b) if so, the extent to which the TRIFED has been successful in the endeavour; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to ensure scientific shortage of these products in order to increase their shelf life?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a)&(b) As reported by TRIFED, it has established 13 Regional Offices (including a `Tribes Shop` in Delhi), 2 Field Offices, 4 permanent procurement centres and one permanent retail outlet. The Federation is also engaged in exploring markets for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). The major NTFP items procured ftom Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are sold by the branches in Jagdalpur, Bhubaneshwar and Hyderabad by exploring the markets. At the international level, TRIFED exports NTFPs like Gum Karaya and Lac through its associate shippers to different parts of the world.

(c) Preservation ofNTFP commodities in a scientific manner is a high priority with TRIFED. At present TRIFED hires the services of the Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporation godowns and cold storagesfor preservation purposes, to increase the shelf life of the products.